

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7379

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 0254

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL

SUBJ: MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS IN DENMARK

REF: A. STATE 10253, B. STATE 7807

1. DRAWING ON STATE 7807, EMBOFF AGAIN MET WITH VAN DEN BERGH, LABOR PARTY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY, JAN 16 TO EXPLAIN USG CONCERNS WITH AND OPPOSITION TO EUROPEAN SOCIALIST COOPERATION WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES. SEE THE HAGUE 235 FOR EARLIER DISCUSSION.

2. VAN DEN BERGH ACKNOWLEDTE THAT, UNDER MITTERRAND'S LEADERSHIP, SUBJECT OF SOCIALIST PARTIES ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE CO-OPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS IN SOUTHERN EUROPE WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT HELSINGOR MEETING MONDAY JAN 19. HE THOUGHT THERE NO CHANCE THAT EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS AS A GROUP WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO SANCTION COOPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS, BASING HIS OPINION ON GENERAL OPPOSITION ON PHILOSOPHICAL AND POLITICAL GROUNDS TO SUCH A POLICY BY A MAJORITY OF THOSE ATTENDING. SOARES AND GONZALEZ WERE NOT ENAMORED WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THEIR COUNTRIES, HE SAID. VAN DEN BERGH AGAIN REFERRED TO COMMENT HE HAD MADE TO EMBOFF TWO DAYS EARLIER CONCERNING SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PSOE) DOUBTS AS TO MODERATION OF SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PCE) RANK AND FILE (THE HAGUE 235). MITTERRAND MIGHT PUBLICLY ESPOUSE COOPERATION WITH FRENCH COMMUNISTS, BUT WAS VERY CRITICAL OF THEM PRIVATELY.

3. WE MADE CLEAR THAT WE WANTED VAN DEN BERGH TO CONVEY SERIOUS US CONCERNS TO PRIME MINISTER AND TO VAN THIJN. HE ASSURED US THAT HE WOULD BRIEF THEM BOTH.

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